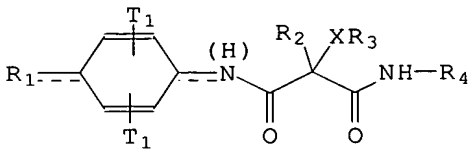
## Abstract

The present invention provides optionally substituted compounds of the formula I or salts thereof;



(I)

wherein $R_1$ is O or S when double bonded to the ring or is OH, SH, or a protected equivalent, when single bonded to the ring, $R_2$ is hydrogen or more preferably an $C_1$-$C_{10}$ organic group attached by a carbon atom, X is H, O, OO, S or SS $R_3$ is absent where X=H, is hydrogen or is a hydroxyl or thiol protecting group, $R_4$ is a hetero- or preferably homo-cyclic aryl group, optionally substituted with a further group $R_5$ and groups $T_1$ are each, independently, absent, hydrogen or an S-$R_6$ group, where any/each $R_6$ is independently an organic group of molecular weight up to around 500 amu. The invention further provides a method for the synthesis of such compounds and a method of treatment comprising administering such compounds to a mammalian subject.